

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19-31, and 34-41 were pending before the present amendment. In the present amendment, claims 1, 20, 28, 37, 38, and 40 have been amended and claim 42 has been added. Claim 42 represent previously canceled claim 18. Claim 39 has been canceled.

In the Office Action, claim 28 was rejected for lacking antecedent basis for the phrase "the preset location." With the present amendment, the dependency of claim 28 has been changed from claim 21 to claim 27 so that claim 28 now has proper antecedent basis for the phrase "the preset location."

The following references were used alone or together to reject claims 1-17, 19-30, and 37-41:

Card et al. (U.S. 5,838,326, hereinafter Card)  
Sugiyama et al. (U.S. 6,002,403, hereinafter Sugiyama);  
Marrin et al. (U.S. 5,808,613, hereinafter Marrin);  
Matsuda (U.S. 6,346,956, hereinafter Matsuda);  
Windows NT 4 Workstations ("Windows NT"); and  
Horvitz et al. (U.S. 5,880,733, hereinafter Horvitz).

None of these references shows or suggests the inventions of independent claims 1, 20, or 37. As such, all of the pending claims are patentable over these references taken alone or in any combination.

Claims 1-17, 19, 20-30 and 42

Independent claim 1 provides a method of generating a display. The method includes displaying a three-dimensional environment and at least two tasks in the environment. Each task is capable of including an image of at least two windows with at least one task comprising an ordered stack of windows in which the windows are automatically aligned and a loose stack of windows in which the alignment between the windows is set by a

user. Movement of one of the tasks is displayed in response to input from the user.

Independent claim 20 provides a computer-readable medium with components that are able to display a three-dimensional environment and at least two tasks, each containing images of at least two windows. At least one task comprises an unordered stack of at least two windows and a loose stack of at least two windows. A move task component moves one of the task images in response to input from a user.

None of the cited references show a task with an ordered stack of windows and a loose stack of windows as found in claims 1 and 20.

In the Office Action, it was asserted that Card showed tasks as piles of individual web pages, a document collection and/or a WebBook. However, none of the collections of documents in Card provide both an ordered stack of windows and a loose stack of windows.

In particular, a document pile does not provide both an ordered stack of windows and a loose stack of windows. Instead, it only provides an ordered stack of windows in which the alignment of the windows is automatically determined. (See Column 10, lines 36-49 of Card).

Similarly, the WebBook in Card does not provide both an ordered stack and a loose stack. Instead, it provides pages in a Book metaphor where the pages are automatically positioned within the book.

Thus, none of the document collections provided in Card suggest having both an ordered stack and a loose stack of windows in the collection. Since the other cited references also fail to show providing both an ordered stack and a loose stack in a task, the combination of references does not show or suggest the

invention of independent claim 1 or independent claim 20 or claims 2-17, 19, and 21-30, which depend therefrom.

Claims 37, 38, 40 and 41

Independent claim 37 provides a computer-readable medium with components that display a three-dimensional environment having a stage and at least one task containing images of at least two windows. A movement component moves the task toward the stage and a conversion component converts the task into a focus task when the task reaches the stage. A focus conversion component converts a previous focus task on the stage into a converted non-focus task. The focus conversion component comprises a snapshot component that is capable of replacing the previous focus task with an image of the previous focus task.

None of the cited references show or suggest claim 37 because none of the references show a snapshot component that replaces a focus task with an image of the focus task.

In the Office Action, it was asserted that Card showed such a component in FIGS. 2a and 3 and at Col. 7 lines 33-39 and 63-67. However, none of the cited sections of Card show a component that replaces a focus task with an image of a focus task.

At column 7, lines 33-39, Card states that if a WebBook is selected from a bookcase, the WebBook in the focus space will fly to the bookcase. However, Card does not say that the WebBook in the focus space is replaced with an image of the WebBook. In fact, at column 8, lines 32-36, Card indicates that when a WebBook is not active, it is represented by a cover of the WebBook. Thus, it appears that Card does not capture an image of the WebBook when it moves to the bookshelf but instead replaces the WebBook with an image of a cover associated with the WebBook.

This is substantially different from the present invention in which an image of the task is captured. By

capturing an image of the task, the present invention captures the current layout of the windows in the task. This can help a user to recognize a task by allowing the user to recognize the layout of the windows.

Note that Card never mentions replacing a document collection with an image of the document collection. As such, Card does not show or suggest the invention of claim 37, either alone or in combination with the other cited references. Claim 37 and claims 38, 40, and 41 are therefore patentable over Card and the other cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, claims 1-17, 19-31, 34-38, and 40-42 are patentable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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